

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 000662

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TAGS:

SUBJECT:TTPI USG PLANS FOR TINIAN

REF: HICOMTERPALIS DTG 1911432

1. EARLIER THIS FALL STATE AND DOD WERE QUERIED BY JAPANESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING USG MILITARY PLANS FOR TINIAN. STATE RESPONDED BY OUTLINING US PLANS FOR BUILDUP OF MILITARY FACILITIES ON THE ISLAND.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY US PLANS FOR TINIAN CHANGED DUE TO EVOLVING CONDITIONS, AND THE RESULT IS A SLOW DOWN IN PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT THERE. IN VIEW OF GOJ EXPRESSED INTEREST IN TINIAN AND THE TTPI, WE BELIEVE THE GOJ SHOULD BE INFORMED OF THE ALTERED PLANS. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE OF DECEMBER 11, 1974, IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE IN BRIEFING GOJ OFFICIALS AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE.

3. QUOTE AMBASSADOR HAYDN WILLIAMS AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION HAVE CONCLUDED ONE WEEK OF MEETINGS IN THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE MARIANAS

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PAGE 02 STATE 000662

POLITICAL STATUS NEGOTIATIONS WHICH BEGAN ON DECEMBER 5.

THE MEETING HELD THUS FAR HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO A CAREFUL REVIEW OF A DRAFT COVENANT PRESENTED BY THE JOINT DRAFTING COMPANY TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAN ISLANDS IN POLITICAL UNION WITH THE UNITED STATES. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS INFORMED THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 10 THAT A REVIEW OF U.S. DEFENSE PLANS HAS MADE NECESSARY VARIOUS ADJUSTMENTS IN U.S. DEFENSE PROGRAMS INCLUDING ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PLANS AND TIMETABLE FOR A MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN. THIS REVIEW HAS BEEN REQUIRED IN PART BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE U.S. DEFENSE BUDGET.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID THAT THE REVIEW HAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT DEFENSE REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TINIAN MILITARY LAND NEEDS AS PREVIOUSLY SET FORTH AND TENTATIVELY AGREED TO LAST MAY AND IT WILL REMAIN NECESSARY FOR THE U.S. TO ACQUIRE APPROXIMATELY 3,785 HECTARES ON TINIAN IN ADDITION TO THE PRESENT MILITARY RETENTION LANDS ON TINIAN. THE LONG TERM USE OF TINIAN WILL INCLUDE JOINT SERVICE LAND, SEA AND AIR TRAINING AND MANEUVERS, AMMUNITION STORAGE AND FORWARD LOGISTICS, WITH AN OPERATIONAL JOINT SERVICE AIRFIELD AND A DEVELOPED HARBOR TO SUPPORT THESE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, IN THE NEAR TERM, THE MAJOR PLANNED USE FOR TINIAN WILL BE FOR GROUND, SEA AND AIR TRAINING EXERCISES.

TINIAN WILL BECOME AN IMPORTANT SITE, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, FOR KEEPING U.S. FORWARD AMPHIBIOUS FORCES IN A HIGH STATE OF READINESS THROUGH COMBINED EXERCISES. IT WILL BE USED BY UNITS OF VARIOUS SIZES, UP TO 2,000 MEN, FOR GROUND OPERATIONS AND AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS SUPPORTED BY APPROPRIATE NAVAL AND AIR UNITS.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS POINTED OUT THAT TO SUPPORT THESE OPERATIONS AND TO FACILITATE THE RAPID BUILD-UP IN AN EMERGENCY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FULL PLANS FOR TINIAN, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 000662

THE HARBOR AT SAN JOSE WILL BE REHABILITATED AND WEST FIELD WILL BE UPGRADED, ALTHOUGH THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO REORIENTATE AND LENGTHEN WEST FIELD AT THIS TIME. AMMUNITION STORAGE MAY COME LATER, AND IF IT DOES, A WET

SLIP FOR OFF LANDING SHIPS WILL BE BUILT.

SAN JOSE HARBOR WILL BE REHABILITATED SOON, WHICH WILL

INCLUDE REBUILDING THE BREAKWATER, DREDGING THE CHANNEL AND REPAIRING THE DOCK AREA. OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

RELATED TO THE HARBOR AND AIRFIELD REHABILITATION ALSO MAY BE POSSIBLE. NO PERMANENT STRUCTURES ARE NOW PLANNED FOR TINIAN, AND THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR STATIONING PERMANENT MILITARY PERSONNEL ON TINIAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

AMBASSADOR WILLIAMS SAID THAT THIS LIMITED BASE CONCEPT WILL MEAN IN THE SHORT TERM LESS OF LOCAL INCOME FROM CONSTRUCTION AND A CONTINUOUS MILITARY PRESENCE. HOWEVER, THE PRESENT PLANS WILL RESULT IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF SAN JOSE HARBOR AND WEST FIELD WHICH ARE OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO THE PEOPLE. IN ADDITION, MORE LAND WILL NOW BE AVAILABLE FOR LEASEBACK FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES AND GRAZING. IN THE MEANTIME, HE ADDED, ONE WOULD EXPECT THAT TINIAN WILL BENEFIT GREATLY FROM THE PREVIOUSLY NEGOTIATED \$500,000 PER YEAR FOR SEVEN-YEAR SPECIAL FUND FOR TINIAN'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, PLUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT GRANTS FROM REGULAR OPERATING FUNDS OF THE FUTURE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS TO BE PROVIDED BY THE U.S. ALSO, HE ADDED, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON TINIAN WILL BE ENCOURAGED AND ENHANCED BY THE SPECIAL LOAN FUND RESERVED FOR FARMERS, FISHERMEN AND COOPERATIVES PROVIDED FOR IN THE DRAFT COMMONWEALTH AGREEMENT. ADDITIONALLY, THE VARIOUS U.S. FEDERAL PROGRAMS FOR SUCH THINGS AS SCHOOLS, PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SHOULD ALSO BE OF BENEFIT TO THE PEOPLE OF TINIAN.

THE AMBASSADOR CONCLUDED THAT THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF A MILITARY BASE ON TINIAN REMAINS UNCHANGED. TINIAN IS STILL CONSIDERED HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 STATE 000662

FOR ITS IMMEDIATE VALUE AND FOR ITS GREAT POTENTIAL AS A READY RESERVE AND FOR A BUILD-UP IN TIMES OF EMERGENCIES.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE MARIANAS POLITICAL STATUS COMMISSION WILL CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION OF THE NEW DEFENSE DEPARTMENT PLANS FOR TINIAN AT THEIR NEXT MEETING AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS HAD TIME TO CONSIDER THE INFORMATION GIVEN IT IN YESTERDAY'S WORKING SESSION . END QUOTE.

4. CURRENT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARIANAS RECESSED ON A POSITIVE NOTE 19 DECEMBER WITH PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT REACHED ON ALL MAJOR ISSUES. THE CHANGE IN OUR PLANS FOR TINIAN DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE

NEGOTIATIONS. FORMAL SIGNING OF THE FINAL COVENANT IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY FEBRUARY, ALLOWING TIME FOR (1) A CAREFUL REVIEW BY BOTH SIDES OF THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS IN THE DRAFT COVENANT AND (2) THE COMPLETION OF THE TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS WHICH WILL GOVERN THE LEASE AND LAND USE ARRANGEMENTS.

5. TEXT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED DECEMBER 19 CONTAINED REFTEL. INGERSOLL

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